

## **Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023, 7pm in the Village Hall.**

**Present** – Cllr. Padgham (Chairman); Cllr. Topley; District Cllr. Swain; Cllr. Marriott; 2 members of the public; Tony Porter.

**1) Co-option to Council** – no applicants.

### **2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

An opportunity for members of the public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business on the agenda, or any matter of interest to the parish. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 30 minutes. (Standing Orders 3e and 3f).

Reminder that members of the public are not allowed to raise issues when Council is in committee.

Parishioner informed that the bridlepath is still blocked, now for two months. Parishioner will report this to Dartmoor National Park.

Anne Mayes regarding the update about the gritter. Clerk will get in touch with Glasdon to ascertain when the gritter will be coming back to the parish. Also mentioned the proposed road closures. Chairman updated everyone in chairman's report – attached.

TVCH Report – Tony Porter attending Council.

Mr. Porter has been the Doddiscombsleigh representative on the Teign Valley Hall Committee for some years. Stated at the July meeting of the Community Hall that it would be helpful to make contact with parishes who do not have a representative on the hall committee. The five parishes have always had a representative if nominated; this to keep people updated. Would Council consider looking for a representative to join the Community Hall; a representative does not have to be a councillor. Could this be something that the wider members of the public could have a discussion as to how the hall could be of benefit to them. Anything further that council would like to know apart from what is already in the report. Cllr. Marriott asked how often the committee met – the meetings are quarterly. Cllr. Topley considers that it could be beneficial if the village halls could talk together rather than through parish councils. Cllr. Padgham thanked Tony Porter for his time coming to the council.

**3) Apologies For Absence:** Cllr. Gallagher. Cllr. Purser. Apologies accepted.

**4) Declarations Of Interest:** In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at District Council within 28 days of the change. Cllr. Topley Item 10.

### **5) District and County Councillor Reports –**

District Cllr. Swain updated Council on the situation of the service vehicle fleet – electric where possible. Funding – mid year increases have been approved for some District council services. Mobile library has had a reprieve.

District Cllr. Purser report sent by email.

Some good news in that The mobile library service has as a result of a strong public campaign been given a reprieve whilst a further review takes place. Hopefully money can be found to support our rural communities.

The not so good news is that with the cost of living effecting everybody Teignbridge council has carried out a mid year review of fees and charges and put a number up. The most significant being car park charges which it is estimated will bring in an extra £150k this year and £350k next financial year.

Cost of living advice events are taking place and there is one on the 18th October in the Teign Valley Community hall. Those of you who have refuse collected in the small vans may suffer some disruption as a high level of breakdowns have been happening. A new vehicle fleet will be sourced next year with the majority running on electric power.

**6) Chairman’s Report (for information only) attached.**

Cllr. Topley thanked the Chairman for all the work done within her report. Requested for it to be minuted about unconscious bias and for Council to consider training, with this and equal opportunities training.

Clerk to supply a policy for consideration.

Cllr. Marriott commented on Cllr Topley’s request.

**7) Minutes** –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**8) Replacement Clerk** – to agree the job description, application form and advert in order to obtain a replacement Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer to the Council. Still being debated – November agenda.

**9) Village Hall** – to receive any further update: Cllr. Padgham.

The Hall committee held a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September where the proposed ownership of the hall was on their agenda. See Chairman’s report.

**10) Allotments** – to review and agree the annual charge for an allotment. Currently £30.00 pa. To review and agree the deposit required for an allotment. £15.00. Clerk to apprise Council how many allotments are currently let. One half plot is currently available. Council resolved to keep the charges the same, proposed by Cllr. Padgham, all agreed by show of hands.

**11) PLANNING**

**Planning Applications** - Dartmoor National Park has asked for observations from the Parish Council on the following planning applications –

- a) 0414/23 Erection of agricultural workers dwelling, West Down Farm, Moretonhampstead.  
No comment.

**Planning Decisions**

- i. 0082/23 creation of a new vehicular entrance land to the south of Pound Lane, EX6 7LQ  
GRANTED

**12) FINANCE**

<b>Expenditure</b>	Ian Lucraft – noticeboard fixings/backboard	£23.92	BACs
	Ian Lucraft – engraving cup	£14.50	BACs
	Locum Clerk expenses September	£241.28	BACs
	P Marriott – bus shelter	£70.66	BACs
	L. Henderson – bus shelter	£56.97	BACs

Bank Reconciliation and Statement for Unity Trust Bank circulated prior to the meeting. Still awaiting an up to date statement from Santander Bank.

Council resolved to accept the accounts. Proposed by Cllr. Padgham, all agreed by show of hands.

Grateful thanks to Karen Gervers for doing the clothing bank.

County Cllr. Brook arrived at 8.07pm. Libraries – a strong case was put in favour of keeping the mobile library service in Devon. Requested Council’s opinion on the local bus service.

**13) Change of bank** – Clerk to apprise Council of the latest developments regarding Council’s banking arrangements. Still ongoing and awaiting updated statements from Santander.

**14) Actual spend vs budget** – six month review – figures available at the meeting. Noted and approved. Thanks to Clerk to presenting the figures in a reader friendly way.

**15) Twinning signage** – for discussion and action with Highways officer. To be followed up. Clerk. November agenda.

**16) Parish Plan targets** – for review – Cllr. Topley to report. Priorities for 2023/2024 were checked and considered. A full review will be undertaken in February 2024.

**17) Meeting dates** – to re-visit bi-monthly meetings and agree meeting dates to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Proposed 10 meetings per year, months to be agreed. Meetings will now be on the second Monday of the month.

**18) Clerk's report**

- i. Nil return 6<sup>th</sup> August to 5<sup>th</sup> September submitted for PAYE purposes.
- ii. Gritter – update if possible. Repairs have been agreed and now just awaiting the return of the gritter.

**Councillor's reports and External Meetings attended (for information only)**

Cllr. Topley – a card has been sent to Kathleen Simmonds on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Cllr. Marriott – regarding the road closures.

**Items for Information** - The next council meeting will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.52pm

Signed.....

Date.....